GOD

IN THE QUR'AN, BIBLE & GĪTĀ



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Introduction

The followers of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism consider that their sacred texts: Bible, Qur'an and Gita are the direct Self-revelation by God himself. Revelation by necessity comes to us through the minds and expressions of the chosen messengers to whom God has revealed Himself and so are bound to be limited by human concepts and expressions. The description of God is these texts reveal as much about God as they do about the prophets and sages that conceived these ideas and gave expression to them.

All the four major world faiths consider that their particular sacred text is eternal and immutable and is in fact the ONLY true sacred text. The Muslims are unique in that they accept the revelation of the Bible but consider the Qur'an to be the final and perfect revelation of God (since they believe the Bible has been corrupted by the Jews and Christians).

In order to seriously engage in inter-faith dialogue we need to highlight the DIFFERENCES and not the commonalities. Agreeing on the commonalities merely lulls believers into a false sense of harmony and self-congratulation. It is on the differences that conflict arises and the purpose of Interfaith dialogue should be to reconcile differences, because it is differences which make as all separate and distinct.

Although all religions except Buddhism have a concept of "God" they differ vastly in how they each *conceive* of this Being. We all talk of God but every one of us is talking about different concept. Both a surgeon and a serial killer highly regard the scalpel. but both have am opposing view as to function of the scalpel — both lead to diametrically opposed outcomes.

Another interesting fact is that all the 3 Abrahamic religions have developed a very elaborate and academic system of theology — very often differing vastly from the actual sacred texts upon which the purport to base their conclusions. For example both the Bible and the Qur'an have distinctly anthropomorphic descriptions of God which are denied in the theology. If the sacred texts are "perfect" self-revelations of God shouldn't we take them at face value rather than affirming what they themselves do not.

All the religions affirm that God is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient — surely He would be capable of revealing the Truth in an unambiguous way?

For the sake of convenience I lay out the texts in reverse chronological order from the youngest to the oldest. Seeing that the Qur'an is the final word we will consider it's descriptions of God first.

In this booklet I am juxtaposing what the sacred texts reveal about God — with no commentary and it is up to the gentle readers to judge which form of God they consider to be the most genuine revelation.

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The Holy Qur’an[1]



Allah's face.

“And **the Face of your Lord** full of Majesty and Honour will abide forever.” 55:27

The eyes of Allah

“Knows he not that **Allah does see** (what he does)?” 96:14

“So wait patiently (O Muhammad) for the Decision of your Lord, for verily, you are under **Our Eyes** , and glorify the Praises of your Lord when you get up from sleep.” 52:48

“Saying: Put him (the child) into the Taboot (a box or a case or a chest) and put it into the river (Nile), then the river shall cast it up on the bank, and there, an enemy of Mine and an enemy of his shall take him. And I endued you with love from Me, in order that you may be brought up under **My Eye**,” 20:39

“Floating under **Our Eyes**, a reward for him who had been rejected!” 54:14

Allah will bear his shin

“(Remember) the Day when **the Shin** shall be laid bare (i.e. the Day of Resurrection) and they shall be called to prostrate (to Allah), but they (hypocrites) shall not be able to do so,” *068:042:*

The Hands of Allah:

“They made not a just estimate of Allah such as is due to Him. And on the Day of Resurrection the whole of the earth will be grasped by **His Hand** and the heavens will be rolled up in **His Right Hand**. Glorified is He, and High is He above all that they associate as partners with Him!” 39:67

“Verily, those who give Baia (pledge) to you (O Muhammad) they are giving pledge to Allah. **The Hand of Allah** is over their hands.” 48:10

The Writing of Allah:

“And recite what has been revealed to you (O Muhammad) of the Book (the Quran) of your Lord (i.e. recite it, understand and follow its teachings and act on its orders and preach it to

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[1] The Qur’an was revealed to Muhammad over a period of about 2 decades through the angel Gabriel. There are a few anthropomorphical references to God in the Qur'an but many more in the Hadith for example *Sahih Bukhari, Volume 9, Book 93* — but many Muslims may deny that these references have any authenticity and so I am confining myself to what the Qur’an has to say about God as these verses are indisputable.

men). None can change **His Words**, and none will you find as a refuge other than Him." 18:27

"And **We wrote for him on the Tablets** the lesson to be drawn from all things and the explanation of all things." 78:145

The Throne of Allah:

"And the angels will be on its sides, and eight angels will, that Day, **bear the Throne of your Lord above them**." 69:17

The Image of Allah:

"Some faces that Day shall be *Nadirah* (shining and radiant). **Looking at their Lord (Allah)**; And some faces, that Day, will be *Basirah* (dark, gloomy, frowning, and sad), Thinking that some calamity was about to fall on them;" 72:22-25:

A hint of Allah's transport and company

Will they wait until Allah comes to them in canopies of clouds, with angels (in His train) and the question is (thus) settled? But to Allah do all questions go back (for decision). 2:210.

Allah is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient.

Allah has power over all things. 2:109.

Allah is all-Pervading, all-Knowing. 2:115.

Allah is exalted in Power, Wise. 2:209.

Allah knows what they conceal and what they reveal. 2:77

Allah is completely self-fulfilled

Allah is Free of all wants, and worthy of all praise. 2:267.

Allah is the best of project managers

And (the unbelievers) plotted and planned, and Allah too planned, and the best of planners is Allah. 3:54. 8:30.

Allah gives clear and unambiguous revelations

Allah beckons by His Grace to the Garden (of bliss) and forgiveness, and makes His Signs clear to mankind: That they may celebrate His praise. 2:221.

None of Our revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but We substitute something better or similar: 2:106.

Thus doth Allah make clear His Signs to men: that they may learn self-restraint. 2:187.

Allah is totally compassionate and merciful.

Allah is the Most Gracious and Merciful. 1:1, 2:173, 1:105

Allah is Lord of grace abounding 1:105

Allah is full of kindness to (His) devotees. 2:143, 2:207.

Allah is oft-forgiving Most Merciful. 2;173.

Allah verily is Mild, Forgiving. 22:60

Allah blots out (sins) and forgives again and again. 4:99.

Allah is full of bounty to all the worlds. 2:251.

Allah is He that cares for all and is Wise. 4:130.

Say: If you do love Allah, Follow me: Allah will love you and forgive you your sins: For Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." 3:31.

Allah is perfectly just.

Allah means no injustice to any of His creatures. 3:108.

Allah is never unjust in the least degree: 4:40.

Allah is very strict

Fear Allah for Allah is strict in punishment. 5:3, 3:11, 2:196.

Allah will strongly enforce the penalty. 2:165.

Whatever good, (O man!) happens to you, is from Allah, but whatever evil happens to you, is from your (own) soul. 4:79.

Allah is quick in account. 2:202.

The one sin that Allah will never forgive.

Allah forgives not (The sin of) joining other gods with Him; but He forgives whom He pleaseth other sins than this: one who joins other gods with Allah, Has strayed far, far away (from the right). 4:116.

Allah is unpredictable and capricious

Allah bestows His abundance without measure on whom He will. 2:212.

Allah doth support with His aid whom He pleases. 3:13.

Allah has set a seal on their (kafirs) hearts and on their hearing, and on their eyes is a veil; great is the penalty they (incur). 2:7.

Allah took away their (kafirs) light and left them in utter darkness. So they could not see. 2:17.

He grants wisdom to whom He pleases; and he to whom wisdom is granted receives indeed a benefit overflowing; but none will grasp the Message but men of understanding. 2:269.

Allah sets on the right path whom He pleases. 2:272.

Allah guided whom He will to a path that is straight. 2:213.

Allah Grants His authority to whom He pleases. 2:247.

Allah gives manifold increase to whom He pleases: 2:261.

He forgives whom He pleases, and punishes whom He pleases. 2:284. 3:129.

Allah doth blot out or confirm what He pleases: with Him is the Mother of the Book. 13:39.

If Allah had willed, He could have guided all of you. 16:9.

Those who reject our signs are deaf and dumb, in the midst of darkness profound: whom Allah wills, He leaves to wander: whom He wills, He places on the way that is straight. 6:39.

Those whom Allah (in His plan) wills to guide, He opens their hearts to Islam; those whom He wills to leave straying, He makes their heart close and constricted. 6:125.

The people that Allah loves.

Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who keep themselves pure and clean. 2:222.

— those who act aright. 3:76.

— those who do good. 2:195.

— those who are kind. 5:14.

— those who judge in equity. 5:43.

Allah never harms those who serve Him. 3:182.

Allah is with those who patiently persevere. 8:66.

Allah will deprive usury of all blessing, but will give increase for deeds of charity: For He loves not creatures ungrateful and wicked. 2:276.

Allah gave them a reward in this world, and the excellent reward of the Hereafter. For Allah Loves those who do good. 3:148.

Those are limits set by Allah, those who obey Allah and His Messenger will be admitted to Gardens with rivers flowing beneath, to abide therein (for ever) and that will be the supreme achievement. 4:13.

Allah has a particular love of Jihadis.

Lo! Allah loves them who battle for His cause in ranks, as if they were a solid structure. 61:4

Did you think that you would enter Heaven without Allah testing those of you who fought hard (In His Cause) and remained steadfast? 3:142.

It is not you who slew them; it was Allah, when you threw (a handful of dust), it was not your act, but Allah's: in order that He might test the Believers by a gracious trial from Himself: for Allah is He Who hears and knows (all things). 8:17.

Fight in the cause of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth not transgressors. 2:190.

The people that Allah hates.

They draw on themselves anger from Allah… 3:112

The curse of Allah is on those without Faith (kafirs). 2:89.

Allah is an enemy to those who reject Faith (kafirs). 2:98.

Then those who reject Faith in the Signs of Allah (kafirs) will suffer the severest penalty, and Allah is the Lord of Retribution. 3:4.

Allah has cursed them (the Jews) for their Unbelief; 4:46.

They are (Jews) whom Allah has cursed: 4:52.

Lo! Allah has cursed the unbelievers (kafirs), and has prepared for them a flaming fire. 33:64

Those who invent a lie against Allah will never prosper. 10:69.

For Allah loves not the arrogant, the vainglorious. 4:36

Allah loves not one given to perfidy and crime. 4:107.

Allah is not misled by actions but focuses on intention.

Allah will not call you to account for thoughtlessness in your oaths, but for the intention in your hearts; and He is Oft-forgiving, Most Forbearing. 2:225.

The appropriate emotional response to Allah is FEAR

This is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah. 2:2

O mankind! Fear your Lord. Lo! the earthquake of the Hour (of Doom) is a tremendous thing. 22:1

And believe in what I reveal, confirming the revelation which is with you, and be not the first to reject Faith therein, nor sell My Signs for a small price; and fear Me, and Me alone. 2:41

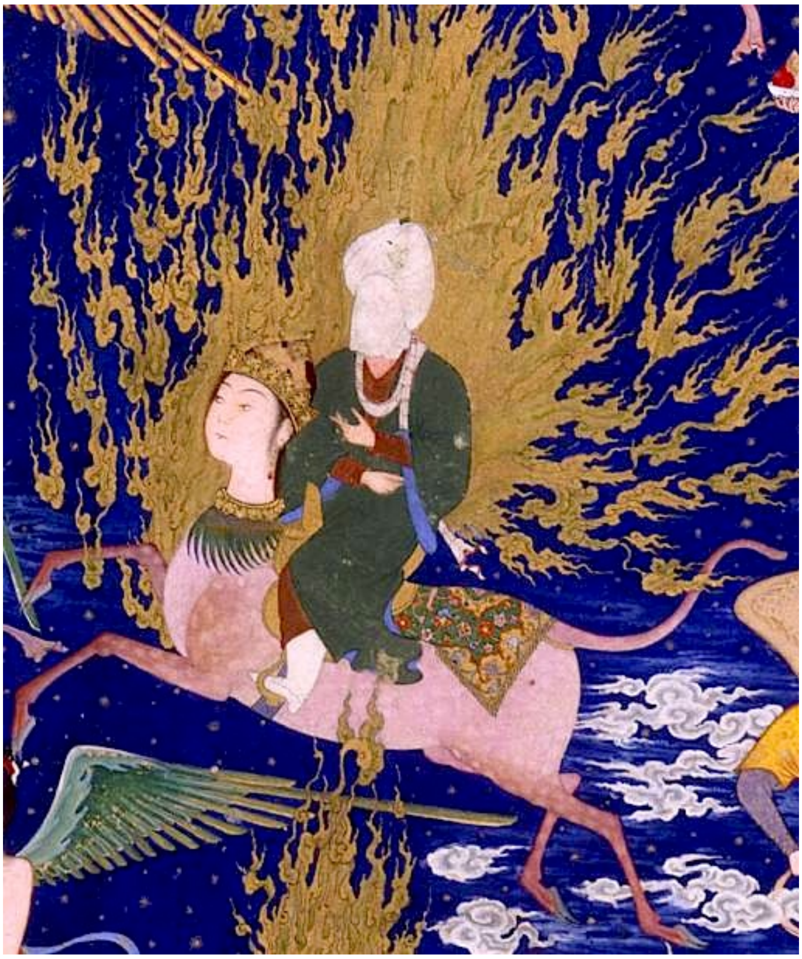
So We made it an example to their own time and to their posterity, and a lesson to those who fear Allah. 2:66

.... to be steadfast in prayer, and practice regular charity; to fulfill the contracts which you have made; and to be firm and patient, in pain (or suffering) and adversity, and throughout all periods of panic. Such are the people of truth, the Allah-fearing. 2:177

He who obeys Allah and His messenger, and fears Allah, and keeps duty (unto Him): such indeed are the victorious. 24:52

Lo! those who go in awe for fear of their Lord. 23:57

(There are 247 references to the fear of Allah and not one verse referring to love of Allah.)



Muhammad riding the Buraq to heaven (Tabriz Persia 1539)

The Holy Bible[2]



God's Name

The LORD is a man of war: Yahweh is his name. (Exo.15; 3)

God's Country

God came from Teman (Yemen), and the Holy One from mount Paran. (Habak.3; 3)

Descriptions of God.

Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind...... He shot arrows and scattered the enemies, bolts of lightning and routed them. (2 Samuel 22; 9 -15)

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, (2 Chron.16;9)

"These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range throughout the earth." (Zech. 4;10)

God's companions

The first chariot had red horses, the second black, the third white, and the fourth dappled—all of them powerful. I asked the angel who was speaking to me, "What are these, my lord?" The angel answered me, "These are the four spirits of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world. (Zech. 6; 2)

Bizarre heavenly beasts around God's throne praise him tirelessly

Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and behind. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all over, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." (Rev. 4; 6–9)

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[2] The Old Testament was alleged to be have been written by Moses but it is in fact the composite work of several authors over many centuries. The New Testament was written by several authors, the Gospels by the four evangelists – none of whom were eye-witnesses of the events that they describe.

Yahweh comes accompanied by epidemics.

Plague went before him; pestilence followed his steps…… His ways are eternal. (Hab. 3;5-6)

God's Transport

And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. (2 Sam. 22:11)

And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. (Psalm 18:10)

God's throne.

From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. (Rev. 4; 5)

God's Offspring

The Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass. (Rev. 2; 18)

I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the breasts with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword; and his countenance was as the sun shines in his strength. (Rev. 1:12–16.)

Sons of God have sex with the daughters of men.

…….. when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. (Gen. 6; 4)

The Lord prefers meat to vegetables.

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. (Gen. 4. 3-5.)

God enjoys the smell of roast meat.

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma. (Gen. 8;20)

God shoots out fire to eat the offering

Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. (Lev 9:24)

God's Character

Yahweh the destroyer

"I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. "I will sweep away both men and animals; I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. The wicked will have only heaps of rubble when I cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. (Zeph. 1;2)

Yahweh the god of war.

"See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no-one can deliver out of my hand. I lift my hand to heaven and declare: As surely as I live for ever, when I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand grasps it in judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and repay those who hate me. I will make my arrows drunk with blood, while my sword devours flesh: the blood of the slain and the captives, the heads of the enemy leaders." (Deut. 39 – 42)

Yahweh — an envious, irascible, indignant and avenging god.

The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet. ……. The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it. Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him. (Nahum 1;1–6)

"It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them." The LORD will judge his people and have compassion on his servants when he sees their strength is gone and no-one is left, slave or free. (Deut 32;35)

A third of your people will die of the plague or perish by famine inside you; a third will fall by the sword outside your walls; and a third I will scatter to the winds and pursue with drawn sword. "Then my anger will cease and my wrath against them will subside, and I will be avenged. And when I have spent my wrath upon them, they will know that I the LORD have spoken in my zeal. (Ezek. 5; 12-13)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them. (John 3:36)

Yahweh's uncontrollable fury, and lack of poise

For a fire has been kindled by my wrath, one that burns to the realm of death below. It will devour the earth and its harvests and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. "I will heap calamities upon them and expend my arrows against them. I will send wasting famine against them, consuming pestilence and deadly plague; I will send against them the fangs of wild beasts, the venom of vipers that glide in the dust. In the street the sword will make them childless; in their homes terror will reign. Young men and young women will perish, infants and grey-haired men. (Deut 32;22–25)

The LORD is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their armies. *He will totally destroy them,* he will give them over to slaughter. Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will send up a stench; the mountains will be soaked with their blood. All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig-tree. My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; ……. *The sword of the LORD is bathed in blood,* it is covered with fat — the blood of lambs and goats, fat from the kidneys of rams. ……. For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause. (Isaiah 34; 2–10)

Yahweh's lack of compassion

"Look, O LORD, and consider: Whom have you ever treated like this? Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord? "Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets; my young men and maidens have fallen by the sword. *You have slain them in the day of your anger; you have slaughtered them without pity.* (Lam. 2;20)

“Therefore I will deal with them in anger; I will not look on them with pity or spare them. Although they shout in my ears, I will not listen to them.” (Ezek. 8; 18)

“Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Because of this, all hands will go limp, every man's heart will melt. Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labour. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame. See, the day of the LORD is coming — a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger — to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. Whoever is captured will be thrust through; all who are caught will fall by the sword. Their infants will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses will be looted and their wives ravished. See, I will stir up against them the Medes, who do not care for silver and have no delight in gold. Their bows will strike down the young men; they will have no mercy on infants nor will they look with compassion on children. (Isaiah 13;6 — 18)

God as a wild beast

Like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in hiding, he dragged me from the path and mangled me and left me without help. (Lam. 3;10)

For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, like a great lion to Judah. I will tear them to pieces and go away; I will carry them off, with no-one to rescue them. (Hosea 5;14)

So I will come upon them like a lion, like a leopard I will lurk by the path. Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open. Like a lion I will devour them; a wild animal will tear them apart. (Hosea 13; 7-8)

God regrets destroying every living being and resolves not to do it again.

The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. (Gen. 8;21)

God repents and feels sorry for himself.

You have forsaken me, says the LORD, you have gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against you, and destroy you; I am weary with *repenting*. (Jer. 15;6.)

The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. (Gen; 6; 6)

Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. (Exo. 32; 14

And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel. (I Sam. 15; 35)

So the LORD relented. "This will not happen," the LORD said. (Amos. 7;3)

God's Appearances

God stands on the Altar

I saw the Lord standing upon the altar. (Amos 9;1)

God manifest himself as a pillar of fire and a cloud.

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: he took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people. (Exo.13; 21, 22.)

God hides in a burning bush.

Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ….. When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." (Exo. 3:2-5)

God shows his back parts.

Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." (Exo.33;23)

God's Social Life

God is tired of living in a tent and demands a house

That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, “This is what the LORD says:– Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” (2 Sam;7:4)

Moses takes the people to meet Yaweh in a burning mountain

Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. …… The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up and the LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish. Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them." (Exo. 19;17-22)

God holds a dinner party for 74 guests on a paved mountain

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank. (Exo 24:9-11)

God and two angels pay a courtesy call on Abraham and have lunch with him

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground........... He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. (Gen. 18;1–8)

God's Communicative skills

A talking cloud.

As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshipped, each at the entrance to his tent. The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. (Exo.33:9)

God roars

The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies. (Isa. 42:13)

They will follow the LORD; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. (Hosea 11:10)

The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. (Joel 3:16)

and yells like grape-pressers

"Now prophesy all these words against them and say to them: "`The LORD will roar from on high; he will thunder from his holy dwelling and roar mightily against his land. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, shout against all who live on the earth. (Jer. 25:30)

He summons people by whistling and hissing

He lifts up a banner for the distant nations, he whistles for those at the ends of the earth. Here they come, swiftly and speedily! (Isa. 5:26)

I will hiss for them, and gather them; for I have redeemed them: (Zech. 10:8)

He also summons the flies from Egypt and the Bees from Assyria by hissing

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. (Isa. 7:18)

God's Deceptions

God deceives his own prophets.

O LORD, you deceived me, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. (Jer. 20:7)

"So now the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of these prophets of yours." (2 Chron.18:22)

And sends evil spirits to trouble his kings

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. (I Sam.16:14)

The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. (I Sam.18;10)

He also deludes people into believing lies so that he can then condemn them.

For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. (2 Thess. 2:11,12)

God makes men drunkards.

This is what the LORD says: I am going to fill with drunkenness all who live in this land, including the kings who sit on David's throne, the priests, the prophets and all those living in Jerusalem. I will smash them one against the other, fathers and sons alike, declares the LORD. I will allow no pity or mercy or compassion to keep me from destroying them.' (Jeremiah 13:13,14)

God's Enemy the Dragon

God describes the Leviathan — a many-headed fire-breathing Sea-Dragon.

Moreover the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind saying; " Can you catch the Leviathan with a hook? Or draw him out with a cord in his mouth? .... One cannot go far off when Leviathan is stirred up; but who then is able to stand before me? Who can open the door of his mouth? His teeth are terrible round about...... His appearance is full of light, and his eyes are like the rays of the dawn. Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out. Out of his nostrils goes smoke, like a flame, spreading around the sides of a pot. His breath kindles coals, and a flame goes out of his mouth...... His meat is good and fat and it is nourishing.... Because of the fear of him, the mighty are afraid; and the strong are humbled............He brings to destruction whatever is proud. He is the King over all things in the deep. (Job 41:1)

A War in heaven between the angels and the dragon

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Rev. 12:7–9)

God fights with the Sea-Dragon and kills it.

It was you who split open the sea by your power; you broke the heads of the monster in the waters. It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave him as food to the creatures of the desert. (Ps 74:14 13,14)

In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish **leviathan** the piercing serpent, even **leviathan** that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that [is] in the sea. (Isa 27:1)

Testimonies of God's Goodness

The love of God is evident in his killing and expropriating the land of others

To him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt His love endures for ever. ....15 but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea; His love endures for ever........... 17 who struck down great kings, His love endures for ever........18 and killed mighty kings — His love endures for ever. 19 Sihon king of the Amorites His love endures for ever. 20 and Og king of Bashan — His love endures for ever. 21 and gave their land as an inheritance, His love endures for ever. (Ps 136:10)

Yahweh is compassionate.

The Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. (Exo 34:6)

The Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. (Deut. 30:3)

For the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him. (2 Chron. 30:9)

But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them. (Neh. 9:17)

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. (Ps 86:15)

The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. (Ps 116:5)

The Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. (Joel 2:13)

Yahweh is perfectly Just

For the Lord is a God of justice. (Isa. 30:18)

With the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery. (2 Chron 19:7)

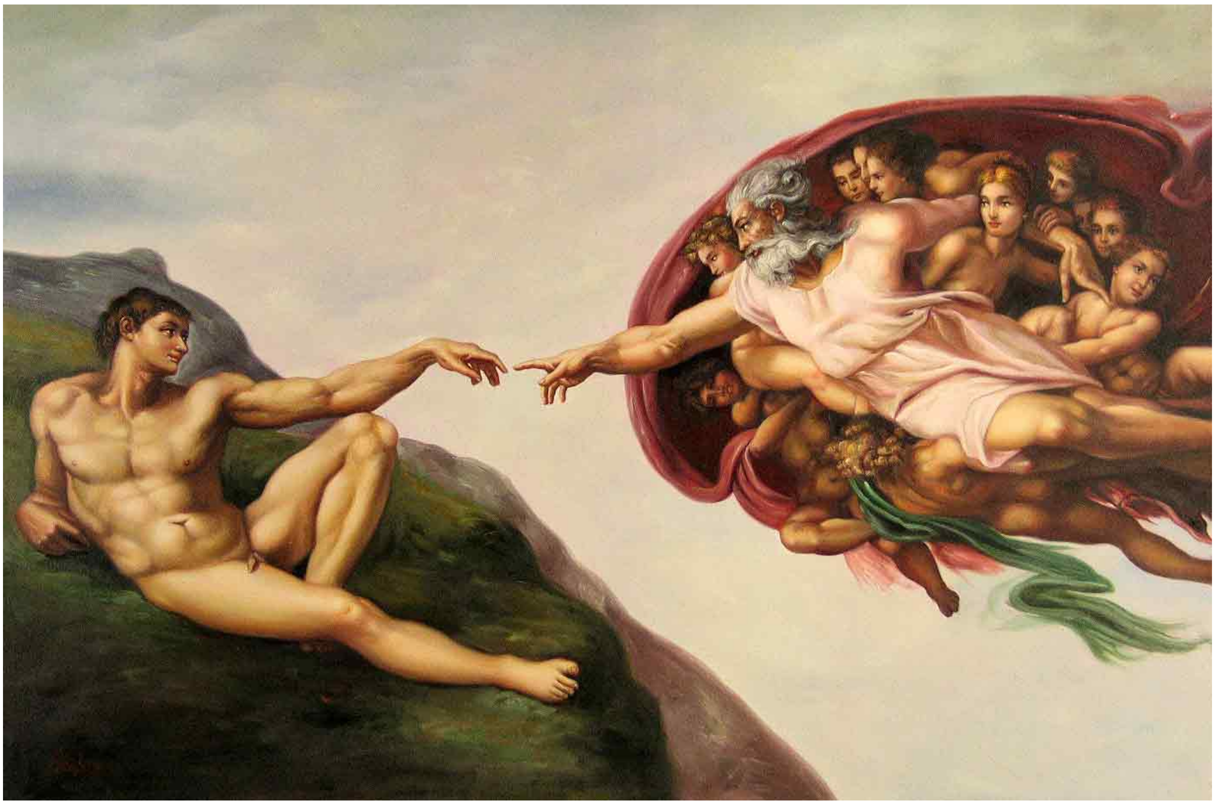
God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day. (Ps 7:11)

It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another. (Ps 75:7)

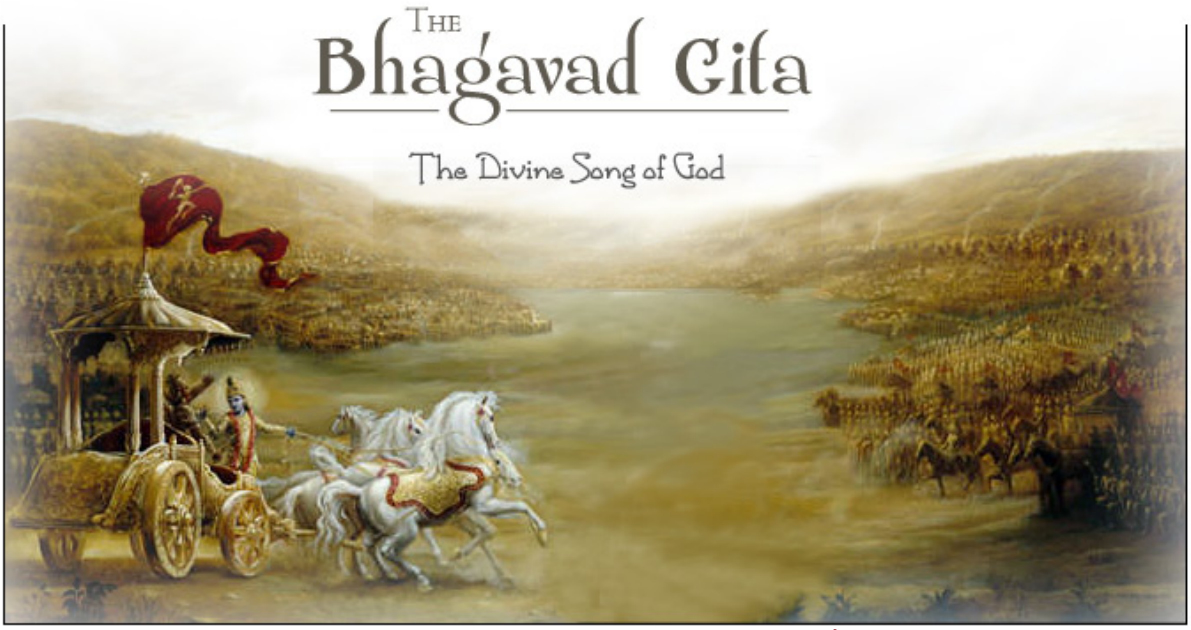
He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. (Deut. 32:4)

And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice. (Ps 50:6)

But the Lord Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will be proved holy by his righteous acts. (Isa 5:16)



The creation of Adam by Michaelangelo (Sistine Chapel)



The Holy Bhagavad Gītā[3]

The Lord is source of everything.

I am the source of all; everything emerges[4] from Me. 10:8.

Therefore, I am the origin and the dissolution of the whole universe. 7:6

There is nothing whatsoever higher than Me, O Arjuna. All this is strung on Me, as clusters of gems on a thread. 7:7.

God as destroyer

I am Time, the mighty force which destroys everything, fully Manifesting Myself, I am here engaged in destroying the worlds. Even without you, none of the warriors arrayed in the enemy ranks shall survive. 11:32.

God as Preserver

And pervading the earth I support all beings by My power. I nourish all herbs by becoming the Moon full of nectar. 15:13.

I abide, sustaining this whole universe with but a fraction of Myself. 10: 42

God as Light

That light that is in the sun which illumines the whole universe, and that which is in the moon and in fire, know that light to be Mine. 15:12.

The Lord incarnates Himself whenever there is a need.

Many births of Mine have passed, O Arjuna, and so is it with you also. I know them all, but you do not know them. Though I am unborn and immutable by nature, and though I am the Lord of all beings, yet by employing My own Nature I am born by My own free will. 4:5–6

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[3] The Gita is a conversation between God as Krishna and his disciple Arjuna. It was heard through clairaudience and reported by Sanjaya and recorded in the Mahabharata.

[4] Indian philosophy holds that quantum matter itself is the substance of God.

Whenever there is a decline of *Dharma*, O Arjuna, and an increase of *Adharma*, then I incarnate Myself. For the protection of the good and for the destruction of the wicked, for the establishment of Dharma, I advent myself from age to age. 4:7–8.

The Lord accepts people in whatever way they approach him.

Whosoever takes refuge in Me in any manner whatsoever, in the same manner do I favour them; beings experience Me alone in different ways, O Arjuna. 4:11.

Whichever manifestation (of the Divine) any devotee desires to worship with faith — that faith I make unshakeable and firm. 7:21.

Endowed with that faith, one engages in the worship of that [particular] manifestation and thence obtains the desired objects, which are in fact bestowed by Me alone. 7:22.

Even those who, endowed with faith are devoted to other gods, they worship Me alone in an indirect manner. 9:23.

I am the same to all beings; to Me there is none hateful or dear; but those who worship Me with devotion abide in Me and I in them. 9:29.

If even the most sinful person worships Me with devotion to no other, he must be regarded as righteous, for he has rightly resolved. 9:30.

The Lord as easily approachable

To those, who are constantly harmonised with Me and who worship Me with intense love, I fondly grant the mental disposition (*Buddhi-yoga*) by which they attain to Me. 10:10.

Out of compassion for them alone, I, being the focus of their thought processes, dispel the darkness born of ignorance by the brilliant lamp of wisdom. 10:11.

Whosoever serves Me, regards Me as the highest and is devoted to Me, free from attachment and devoid of malice towards any creature, comes to Me, O Arjuna. 11:55.

The Lord accepts whatever is offered with devotion

Whoever offers to Me with devotion a leaf, a flower, a fruit or some water, I accept this offering made with devotion by one who is pure of heart. 9:26.

Each individual being is a fraction of the Divine.

An eternal fraction of Myself, having become the Jīvātman in the mortal world, acquires the [five] senses, and the mind which is the sixth, and abides in Prakrti. 15:7.

And I am located in the hearts of all. From Me come memory, knowledge and their absence also. Indeed, I alone am that which is to be known from all the Vedas. I bring about the fruition of the rituals of Vedas; I alone am the knower of the Vedas. 15:15.

God's description of himself as the essence of everything there is.

I am the sapidity in the water, I am the radiance in the sun and the moon; the sacred syllable Om in all the Vedas; sound in the ether, and valour in men am I. 7:8.

I am the pure fragrance in the earth; I am the brilliance in the fire; I am the life-principle in all beings, and Inner Heat[5] engendered by spiritual practitioners. 7:9.

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[5] *Tapas* is a difficult word to translate into English as nothing akin to it exits. *Tapas* refers to an inner radiance, or brilliance that is produced by meditation and spiritual discipline. It refers both to the practice of generating it, and to the end product which manifests as an inner brilliance or radiant illumination.

Know Me, to be the primeval seed of all beings. I am the intelligence of the discerning, and the brilliance of the brilliant. 7:10.

I am strength in the strong disassociated with craving and attachment. In all beings, I am that desire which is not contrary to Dharma. 7:11.

I am the father, mother, mid-wife and grandfather of this universe. I am the object of knowledge; I am the purifier. I am the syllable Om and also the Rigveda, Samaveda and the Yajurveda. 9:17.

I am the Goal, the Supporter, the Lord, the Witness, the Abode, the Refuge and the Friend [of the universe]. I am the Seat of origin and dissolution, that which is preserved and the imperishable seed. 9:18.

I give heat; I am the rain which I send forth and hold back; I am immortality as well as death, I am being, and also non-being. 9:19.

I am the Self, dwelling in the hearts of all beings. I verily am the beginning, the middle and also the end of all beings. 10:20.

Among sense-organs I am the Mind, and of sentient beings I am consciousness[6]. 10:22.

Among sciences I am the science of the Self. In the discipline of debate, I am logical reasoning. 10:32.

I am Myself everlasting Time and I am the Creator, facing every direction. 10:33.

I am Death among plunderers. I am the origin of all that shall be born. In women I am fame, prosperity, eloquence, memory, intelligence, endurance and forgiveness. 10:34.

Of the fraudulent [activities], I am gambling. I am the brilliance of the brilliant, I am victory, I am effort, I am the magnanimity of the magnanimous. 10:36.

Of disciplinarians, I am the principle of punishment. Among conquerors, I am diplomatic policy. Of secrets, I am verily silence; and of those who are wise, I am wisdom. 10:38.

Whatever is the essence of all beings, I am that. There is nothing mobile or immobile that can exist without Me. 10:39.

Know for certain that whatever has sovereignty, splendour and brilliance is produced by a mere fraction of My potency. 10:41.

Indeed, I am the sole source of the gods and of the great seers. 10:2.

The Revelation of the Cosmic Form

There [in that form] Arjuna beheld the entire universe, with its manifold divisions gathered together in one single point within the body of the God of gods. 11:13.

If a thousand suns were to rise at once in the sky, the resulting magnificence may be (somewhat) like the effulgence of that mighty One. 11:12.

I behold You with crown, mace and discus, as an expanse of light radiating everywhere, hard to look at, blazing like a burning fire and the sun, and immeasurable. 11:17.

I behold You without beginning, middle and end. Your creative potency is infinite and You are endowed with a countless number of arms. The sun and moon are Your eyes and Your mouth is emitting blazing fire and searing the entire universe with your radiance. 11:19.

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[6] It is important to bear in mind that according in Indian psychology consciousness does not inhere in the mind but is an essential feature of the ātman. The mind is simply another sense organ that receives the sense data and activates the respective organs.

The inter-space between heaven and earth, and all the directions are filled by You alone. Beholding Your spectacular and awesome form, the three worlds are greatly overwhelmed with apprehension. 11:20.

Verily into You the hosts of gods enter. Some fearfully extol You with palms joined. The hosts of great sages and Siddhas praise You with perfect eulogies saying "Hail to You." 11:21.

Beholding Your almighty manifestation with many faces and eyes with many arms, thighs, and feet, with many torsos and dreadful with many fangs, all beings including myself are terrified, O Mighty-Armed. 11:23.

On seeing You, O Vishnu, touching the highest Heaven, refulgent, multi-coloured with gaping mouths and huge glaring eyes, I am extremely agitated to my inmost being, I have lost all composure and peace. 11:24.

Seeing Your mouths with awesome fangs and appearing like the fire of Cosmic Annihilation, I am completely disorientated and confused. Have mercy on me, O Lord of the Devas! O Abode of the universe! 11:25.

O Vishnu! Devouring all the worlds on every side with your flaming mouths, You lick them up. Your brilliant rays scorch the whole universe, filling it with their radiance. 11:30.

The most appropriate relationship to God loving devotion (Bhakti).

One who is full of devotion to Me, who rejoices not, nor hates, nor grieves, nor desires, and who renounces both merit and demerit — such a devotee is dear to me. 12:17.

Consistent devotion directed to Me alone, unadulterated, resorting to solitary places and dislike for crowds: 13:11.

And by serving Me with unswerving devotion, one transcends the Gunas, and becomes fit to attain the state of Brahman. 14:26.

Having realised the state of Brahman, full of joy, neither grieving nor craving, being the same to all beings, one attains supreme devotion to Me. 18: 54.

